

TESTIMONY OF RAY BEVIS JR
WOLCOTT, CT
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 10, 2023

SUPPORTS: S.B. No. 1148 (RAISED) AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN KILLING AND HUNTING OF BLACK BEAR AND PROHIBITING BIRD FEEDERS AND OTHER UNINTENTIONAL AND INTENTIONAL FEEDING OF POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS

SUPPORTS: S.B. No. 1149 (RAISED) AN ACT ELIMINATING ALL RESTRICTIONS FOR SUNDAY HUNTING ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Senator Lopes, Representative Gresko, Senator Hochadel, Representative Palm, Senator Harding, Representative Callahan, Esteem Members of the Environment Committee;

My name is Ray Bevis JR from Wolcott, Connecticut. I am submitting written testimony in support of S.B. 1148 authorizing the management of nuisance black bears and the conservation management efforts of a healthy native black bear population here in Connecticut.

This is not an animal rights issue. S.B. 1148 is a conservation attempt for the management of a healthy population. The bear population has grown to a point that demands full management. If opposition to this bill are claiming that we need "Bear Smart" communities that impose zoning ordinances, bear-resistant trash containers, and public education.

Over the last 15 years DEP/DEEP has taken steps to educate the public on how to prevent conflicts with bears-removing potential food sources and not feeding the animals these efforts included media interviews, publications, and websites. It is time that the "Bear Smart" plan includes population management.

Bears are amazing creatures and people do need to be mindful of them, but when it is a common occurrence to see reports of bear attacks on- dogs, cats, donkeys, goats, and other domesticated animals. These encounters even include humans. Look no further than a simple YouTube search.

It is time for Connecticut to join our surrounding states of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont in establishing a bear hunting season.

I am in full support of S.B. No. 1149 AN ACT ELIMINATING ALL RESTRICTIONS FOR SUNDAY HUNTING ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.

I ask the committee to pass both bills on the General Assembly for a Full vote by the representation of the whole state of Connecticut.

Respectfully,



Ray Bevis JR

